

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6005
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1975

EO 11652: CES

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SAUDI DIFFICULTIES

1. DURING JULY 20 MEETING, FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAG TOLD ME THAT RELATIONS AMONG RULING GROUP IN SAUDI ARABIA PRESENTLY UNCLEAR AND POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE. HE NOTED WRYLY THAT WHILE YARG IS FINALLY PUTTING AN END TO THE VARUOUS "GOVERNMENTS WITHIN A GOVERNMENT" IN YEMEN, SAG IN WAKE OF KING FAISG'S DEATH HAS BECOME A STATE OF "KINGDOMS WITHIN A KINGDOM". HE SAID THAT ANYONE GOING TO JIDDA OR RIYADH MUST BE SURE TO SPEAK TO ALL OF THE TOP LEADERSHIP (KING KHALID, PRINCES FAHD, SULTAN AND ABDALLAH) IF HE WANTS TO BE SURE TO BE HEARD AND MORE IMPORTANTLY IF HE WANTS TO BE SURE TO AVOID OFFENDING ANYONE.

2. ASNAG CONTINUED THAT WHILE FAHD PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE DAY-TO-DAY GOVERNING OF SAUDI ARABIA, THE OTHERS ALSO INSIST ON SHARING THE POWER. ASNAG OPINED THAT IT IS A "DANGEROUS" SITUATION FOR SAUDI ARABIA IN WHICH TO FIND ITSELF AND SAID THAT THE REST OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IF THE SAUDIS ARE SOON NOT ABLE TO PUT THEIR INTERNAL HOUSE IN ORDER. ASNAG
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CONCLUDED THAT HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN

SAUDI ARABIA BUT IS NOT TALKING ABOUT IT LEST THIS
KIND OF INFORMATION "GET INTO THE WRONG HANDS" WHICH
WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE FOR BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND YEMEN.

3. COMMENT. ASNAG IS AN ASTUTE POLITICAL OBSERVER
AND HIS COMMENTS DELIVERED IN A DISPASSIONATE MANNER
ARE BEING REPORTED FOR ANY LIGHT IT MIGHT SHED ON THE
SAUDI SCENE AS OBSERVED BY A FELLOW AND SERIOUSLY
CONCERNED ARAB.
SCOTES

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